

SATIRE XVI

<p>Quis numerare queat felicitis praemia, Galli, militiae? nam si subeuntur prospera castra <nil tibi di possunt donare optatius. ergo> me pauidum excipiat tironem porta secundo sidere. plus etenim fati ualet hora benigni quam si nos Veneris commendet epistula Marti et Samia genetrix quae delectatur harena. commoda tractemus primum communia, quorum haut minimum illud erit, ne te pulsare togatus audeat, immo, etsi pulsetur, dissimulet nec audeat excussos praetori ostendere dentes et nigram in facie tumidis liuoribus offam atque oculum medico nil promittente relictum. Bardaicus iudex datur haec punire uolenti calceus et grandes magna ad subsellia surae legibus antiquis castrorum et more Camilli seruato, miles ne uallum litiget extra et procul a signis. ‘iustissima centurionum cognitio est’ inquis ‘de milite, nec mihi derit ultio, si iustae defertur causa querellae.’ tota cohors tamen est inimica, omnesque manipuli consensu magno efficiunt curabilis ut sit uindicta et grauior quam iniuria. dignum erit ergo</p>	<p>2a</p> <p>5</p> <p>10</p> <p>15</p> <p>20</p>
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1. Galli *PU*: Galle Φ

2 subeuntur *PF*: subeantur Φ

post 2 lacunam intellexit Jahn. 2a suppleuit exempli causa Housman

8 ne te *PAO*: nec *U*: si te Φ

10 audeat excussos *codd.*: excussos studeat *Nisbet*: gaudeat excussos *Markland*.

12 oculum *PU*: oculo *F*: oculos Φ . relictum *FU*: relictos Φ

18 *deleuit Nisbet*. est inquis *Housman*: est igitur *codd.*: exigitur *Buecheler*:
 agitur *Kilpatrick*: est inquis *Housman, Willis*

21 efficiunt *PF*: officiant Φ . curabilis ut sit *PSAFU*: plorabilis ut sit *Guyet*,
Cramer: ut cura tibi sit *Housman*: curabitis Φ

22 et *PAFTU*: omisit Φ

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Who could count, Gallus, the rewards of successful military service? For if the camp that you join is thriving then there is nothing that the gods can give you that is more desirable. So

I would let the gate receive me, a nervous recruit, with the stars on my side. For the hour of a benevolent destiny is more powerful than any letter of recommendation to Mars from Venus 5
and from his mother who loves the sand of Samos.

First let's deal with the benefits shared by all [soldiers], of which not the least significant will be this one – that no toga-clad citizen would dare to

thump you. In fact, even if the citizen is the one getting thumped, he would hide it and not dare to show to the praetor his knocked out teeth 10
the black swelling on his face with the blue lumps
and the one eye left him (the doctor is not making any promises).

If he wants redress for this he gets a judge – a soldier's boot and massive lower legs sitting at the huge benches as the ancient laws of military service and the custom of Camillus 15

is preserved – no soldier is to go to court outside the camp and far from the standards. 'The verdict of centurions is the height of justice

in the case of a soldier', you say, 'and I will not miss out on vengeance, if the case which is brought is one of a justified complaint.'

But the whole cohort is against you and all the units 20
with overwhelming consensus see to it that your redress will need the doctor and be more serious than the wrong done to you. It will be

declamatoris mulino corde Vagelli,
 cum duo crura habeas, offendere tot caligas, tot
 milia clauorum. quis tam procul adsit ab urbe 25
 praeterea, quis tam Pylades, molem aggeris ultra
 ut ueniat? lacrimae siccentur protinus, et se
 excusaturos non sollicitemus amicos.
 'da testem' iudex cum dixerit, audeat ille
 nescio quis, pugnoscere qui uidit, dicere 'uidi,' 30
 et credam dignum barba dignumque capillis
 maiorum. citius falsum producere testem
 contra paganum possis quam uera loquentem
 contra fortunam armati contraque pudorem.
 praemia nunc alia atque alia emolumenta notemus 35
 sacramentorum. conuallem ruris auiti
 improbus aut campum mihi si uicinus ademit
 et sacrum effodit medio de limite saxum,
 quod mea cum patulo coluit puls annua libo,
 debitor aut sumptos pergit non reddere nummos 40
 uana superuacui dicens chirographa ligni,
 expectandus erit qui lites inchoet annus
 totius populi. sed tum quoque mille ferenda
 taedia, mille morae; totiens subsellia tantum
 sternuntur, iam facundo ponente lacernas 45
 Caedicio et Fusco iam micturiente parati
 digredimur, lentaque fori pugnamus harena.

- 23 mulino *PS*: mutinensi *ΣΦ*: mutinensis *GKTU*
 24 caligas, tot *codd. recentiores*: caligatos *PΦ*
 25 adsit *Collins*: absit *PΦ*: sit *F*
 29 cum *PFU*: quem *Φ*
 30 qui uidit *PTU*: uidit qui *Φ*
 38 et *PFU*: aut *Φ*
 39 patulo *PFOU*: uetulo *Φ*
 41 *cf. xiii.137*
 42 inchoat *codd.*: inchoat *PU*: inchoet *Φ*, *Servius in Aen. ii.102*
 43 tum *Φ*: tunc *PAFG*
 45 lacernas *PFU*: lucernas *Φ*

the sort of thing you expect of the donkey-brained ranter Vagellius,
since you have two good legs, to run up against so many boots,
so many

thousand hobnails. Besides, who would turn up so far from
the city?

25

Who would be such a Pylades as to come beyond the mass
of the Embankment?

Let the tears be dried at once, and let's not harass
friends who will just make their excuses anyway.

When the judge says 'bring your witness', if somebody dared –
any one who had seen the fists flying – to say 'I saw it',

30

I would think him up to the standard of the beard and the long
hair of

our ancestors. It is quicker to bring out a witness who will lie
against a civilian than one who will tell the truth
against the wealth and the honour of a man in armour.

Let us now mark up other rewards, other payments that come
with the military oaths. If a wicked neighbour has taken a glen
or a field from my family country estate

35

and dug up the sacred stone from the middle of the boundary –
a stone which my annual food-offering of polenta honoured with
its flat cake;

or if a debtor insists on not giving back to me the cash he took,
claiming that the signature on the worthless document is a fake,
there will be a wait until the time of year to begin proceedings
brought by all and sundry. Even then we will have to put up with
a thousand exasperations, a thousand delays; so many times
are the benches

40

cushioned but no more than that – and now the learned
Caedicius is taking off his cloak

45

and now Fuscus is taking a piss. We are ready to start,
but we disperse, and fight our battle on the sticky sand
of the Forum.

ast illis quos arma tegunt et balteus ambit
 quod placitum est ipsis praestatur tempus agendi,
 nec res atteritur longo sufflamine litis. 50
 solis praeterea testandi militibus ius
 uiuo patre datur. nam quae sunt parta labore
 militiae placuit non esse in corpore census,
 omne tenet cuius regimen pater. ergo Coranum
 signorum comitem castrorumque aera merentem 55
 quamuis iam tremulus captat pater; hunc fauor aequus
 prouehit et pulchro reddit sua dona labori.
 ipsius certe ducis hoc referre uidetur
 ut, qui fortis erit, sit felicissimus idem,
 ut laeti phaleris omnes et torquibus omnes 60

48 illis *AHKT*: illi *PΦ*

49 ipsis *PFTU*: illis *Φ*

56 fauor *Ruperti*: labor *PΦ*

But men who have their bodies covered in weapons
with a sword-belt around them –
they are personally offered a time of court action to please them,
they do not find their property wasted away with the lengthy
drag of the case. 50
Furthermore, it is only soldiers who are given the right to make
a will
while their father is alive. For it has been decided that all the
property gained in the toil of
soldiering is not considered part of the family estate
which father keeps total control over. That is why Coranus,
following the standards and earning the military salary, 55
finds himself courted by his own father who is by now doddering.
Fair favour
promotes him and gives its gifts to his glorious work.
It seems to be a matter of great importance to the emperor himself
that a man who will be brave should also be blessed with fortune,
that all be delighted with medals, all with decorations 60